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THE FIRST EVER

2010 SEC EAST CHAMPIONS

CAROLINA CAPTURES FIRST SEC EAST TITLE IN SCHOOL HISTORY

Chris Cox
SPORTS EDITOR

GAINESVILLE, Fla. — Steve Spurrier's latest victory in the Swamp was all but over.

The final minutes were a mere formality, the outcome no longer in doubt.

But South Carolina's sixth-year coach still had some teaching to do.

"I think the guys wanted to hit me with the Gatorade bucket or water bucket," Spurrier said. "[Patrick] D'Marco wanted to carry me over to the field. We haven't had many championships. We had to coach them up a little bit. But we never talked about it, obviously, until the game was over."

And as the clock spiraled toward zero, Florida's current coach, Urban Meyer, stalked toward midfield with his head hung low.

Florida's former coach took a different route to the customary postgame handshake: a damp ride atop the shoulders of his players.

South Carolina 36, Florida 14.

Welcome to next year.

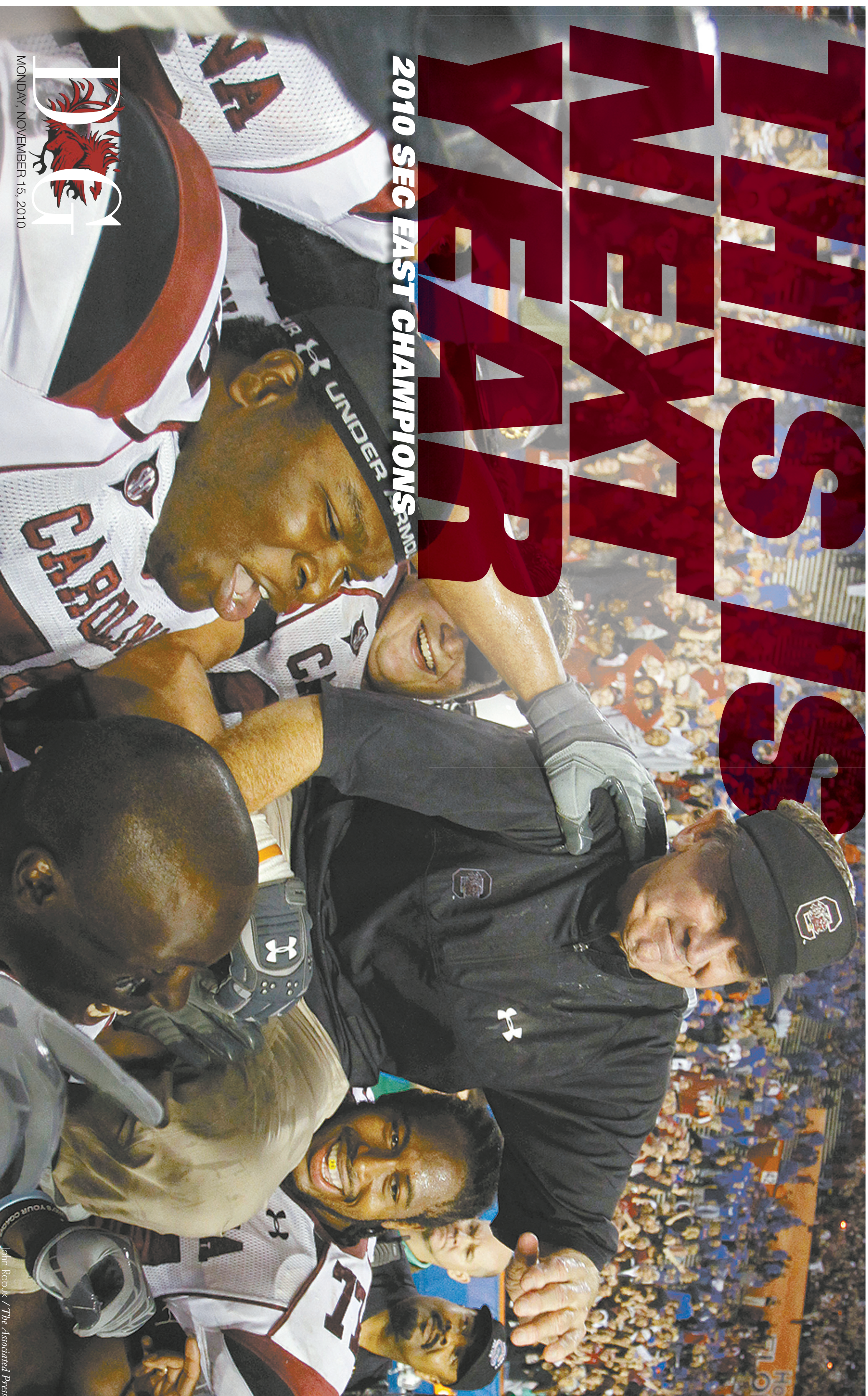
The Gamecocks' first 18 years in the Southeastern Conference had been a long, arduous road. Seasons were paved with near-misses and November collapses. Eastern Division championships — like the one USC clinched on Saturday — were rarely sniffed at, let alone won.

Maybe it was because in those near two decades of football, the Gamecocks didn't have Marcus Lattimore.

The true freshman carried South Carolina to its first SEC Eastern Division title, rushing for a career-high 212 yards and three touchdowns on a school record of 40 carries.

"I saw Marcus Monday or Tuesday of this week, and I said, 'Have you got about 40 carries in you this weekend?' and he said, 'Yes, sir,'" Spurrier said. "That was the plan, and that's how we beat them, running Marcus Lattimore and playing great defense."

It was Lattimore's powerful legs that kept the Gamecocks at a comfortable distance for nearly 60 minutes. After the Gators struck quickly on



MONDAY, NOVEMBER 15, 2010

John Roark / The Associated Press



Jeremy Duncan / THE DAILY GAMECOCK

South Carolina players and coach Steve Spurrier speak to fans inside Williams-Brice Stadium early Sunday morning after the Gamecocks won the SEC East title against Florida.

Fans welcome team back to Columbia

Carolina celebrates in early hours of Sunday morning

Ed Neuhaus
THE DAILY GAMECOCK

Around the time the bars in Five Points were closing Saturday night, there was a party going on at Williams-Brice Stadium.

Thousands of Gamecock fans filled the south end zone bleachers Saturday night to welcome home the Gamecocks following their victory over Florida. Those who came braved the cold weather and late hours to hear coach Steve Spurrier and players talk to them about their win and thank them for their support.

The team was originally supposed to arrive in Columbia at 1 a.m., but fans were already lined up at the gates and snaking across the Williams-Brice parking lot by 12:15 a.m. Once inside, those who came out despite the chilly weather watched a replay of the game on the stadium video screen and took pictures of the scoreboard that proudly

displayed the game's final score: 36-14.

Fans once again watched the video of their team closing out the game, and shortly after, at 2:11 a.m., they saw a new image on that screen — that of the team buses arriving at the stadium. With the blaring of "2001" from the speakers, the team walked out of the tunnel to an ovation one normally wouldn't expect to emanate from the stadium at such a late hour. As they walked into the stadium, several players took out cell phone cameras to take video of their triumphant return to Columbia.

First to speak for the Gamecocks was Spurrier, who received a warm ovation when he reminded the fans that before this night, Carolina fans had waited 41 years for a football championship, but now they had another one to celebrate.

He lauded the performance of his defense, offensive line and play of wide receiver Alshon Jeffery, quarterback Stephen Garcia and running back Marcus Lattimore. Spurrier then brought to the microphone two of his captains, Patrick DiMarco and

Cliff Matthews. Matthews noted the importance of the evening's game while pointing out what lies ahead.

"I know a lot of you have been waiting on this day pretty much all your lives," Matthews said. "We just want to thank you for being the best fans in the world. We still have a lot of work to do."

Spurrier then invited Ladi Ajiboye and Spencer Lanning to the microphone. Ajiboye was brief in his comments.

"SEC, here we come, baby," Ajiboye said. "That's all I have to say!"

All four captains expressed their gratitude toward the fans who had shown up to welcome them home to Columbia, noting there was still work left to be done.

Spurrier took the microphone one more time and closed his remarks by telling the crowd something that was probably already on everyone's mind.

"It's a great night to be a Gamecock."

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CHAMPS ● Continued from 9

In the first half, neither team could gain much of an advantage, as few shots were taken by either team, seeing as how both Tulsa and USC have dominant back fours. Tulsa's greatest opportunity came with one minute left in the half, as Ashley McInnes had a shot on goal, but Maurer was able to leap up and push the ball over the crossbar. McInnes led the Golden Hurricane with three shots.

Both teams had better offensive momentum in the second half, as USC took an 11-7 shot advantage. The Gamecocks had a chance to take the lead in the 75th minute, when Blake Brettschneider set up a cross to J.P. Rafferty, who had a shot on target, but Clark was there for the save.

The stalemate continued through the end of the first overtime period. At 106 minutes into the game, it appeared the result would be decided with penalty kicks. Then, in

the penalty area for the Gamecocks, Tulsa was fouled for a handball after the ball was deflected off a Tulsa defender's elbow.

From there, junior midfielder Stephen Morrissey sailed the ball past Clark on the penalty kick to give South Carolina the 1-0 win in a game where goals could not be had during play.

With the win, the Gamecocks earned an automatic bid in the NCAA Tournament and will learn their place in the bracket Monday.

With the way the Gamecocks have been playing, despite all the adversity they've faced, who knows what they can be capable of in the Tournament?

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SOCCER ● Continued from 9

"I'm really proud of the girls and their effort. They left it on the field," Smith said. "Despite a couple of miscommunication errors that led to some goals, that's not like us defensively. Virginia gave us everything we could handle today. They deserved to win and move on, and I wish them the best of luck."

The loss came two days after Carolina advanced past the first round for the second straight year. After a UNCG own goal early on, Au scored her fifth of the year on an 18-yard shot. The Spartans managed one late, but Carolina held on to advance once again.

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Garcia leads Carolina to top of East division

Quarterback matures before Spurrier's eyes

James Kratch
ASSISTANT SPORTS EDITOR

GAINESVILLE, Fla. — Stephen Garcia was having a hard time expressing himself as he stood at the podium.

"I can't even talk right now, to tell you the truth," he said.

The thing was, instead of making the comment, as he has in past press conferences, due to frustration from a head-shaking loss, it was excitement and happiness making it hard for him to speak.

The redshirt junior had, after all, become just the second quarterback in school history to win a conference championship of any sort.

"It hasn't really sunk in yet. After the Alabama game, it didn't really hit me until the next day," Garcia said. "We're going to Atlanta, and that's what we talked about when we first got recruited here. They said, 'We're going

to play in Atlanta one day.' It took four years, but we're finally here."

That they are. After 19 years in the Southeastern Conference, USC will finally go to the Georgia Dome to play for the league's ultimate prize, and Garcia will be at the helm when it gets there to face Auburn on Dec. 4.

Garcia didn't have jaw-dropping stats by any means, completing 15-of-22 passes for 156 yards, but he managed the game brilliantly for the Gamecocks and, when called upon, ran in for a touchdown from 8 yards out in the fourth quarter.

The score, which gave USC a 29-7 lead, was one the Gamecocks felt put the Gators away for good.

"After that Garcia touchdown, I think they started hanging their heads a little bit," tailback Marcus Lattimore said.

The win had added personal meaning for Garcia, as he was finally able to leave Ben Hill Griffin Stadium victorious after losses in his last two trips to the Swamp — one in high school and one with the

Gamecocks in 2008.

"The previous two times I've played here, I've gotten pretty blown out," Garcia said. "The state championship game, [Jefferson High in Tampa] lost to Jacksonville Bolles and then two years ago [Carolina] lost 56-6."

Garcia was the target of frequent public criticism from coach Steve Spurrier during the offseason, as Spurrier openly challenged Garcia's work ethic and desire to improve.

Now, just a few months later, Garcia has joined USC legend Tommy Suggs, the leader of the 1969 team that won the ACC regular season title, in rather rare air.

"Stephen's doing well," Spurrier said. "Our offensive line played pretty well today. We're just not quite built to throw the ball a whole bunch the way Arkansas, some of those schools are."

Garcia said he doesn't mind not getting to throw the ball as much as he did earlier in his career, mainly because the Gamecocks "win the



Chelsea Director / THE DAILY GAMECOCK

Carolina's Stephen Garcia heads to the sideline after scoring a third-quarter touchdown.

games that we're able to run the ball successfully." But, when he did get to throw the ball against the Gators, he made the tosses count.

"We hit them when we had to," Garcia said. "The guys made some great catches. Tori [Gurley] had some big third-down conversions, D.L. [Moore] had one on the sideline down there. Alshon [Jeffery] had another great game. He caught

everything that was thrown to him. We made them when we needed to, and I think that's what won the game for us."

One of those aforementioned losses which left Garcia speechless was USC's 20-7 defeat at the hands of UConn in the Papajohns.com Bowl in January. After the game, a visibly upset Garcia fought through tears when speaking to the media.

When asked to think back to that day and to where he was standing on Saturday, he said the loss still baffles him.

"I don't really know what happened down there in Alabama, but that's history," he said.

So, too, is what Garcia and the Gamecocks accomplished here.

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USC sophomore wide receiver Tori Gurley does the "Gator chomp" in the fourth quarter after Marcus Lattimore's touchdown put the Gamecocks up 36-14 over Florida.

Bowl scenarios abound for Gamecocks

USC faces multiple options as season draws closer to title game

James Kratch
ASSISTANT SPORTS EDITOR

GAINESVILLE, Fla. — Four postseason bowl games had representatives in Gainesville for Saturday night's game — the Sugar, Capital One, Outback and Chick-fil-A Bowls.

All had to leave the Swamp pretty impressed with the now-SEC East champion Gamecocks.

USC will head to the Georgia Dome in Atlanta to play in the SEC Championship game. Beyond that, though? There are a lot of possibilities in play for the Gamecocks, all depending on how many wins they can pile up and what their Western Division counterparts do down the stretch.

If USC defeats Auburn on Dec. 4 in the title game, it earns the SEC's automatic BCS berth and will head to New Orleans to play in the Sugar Bowl, which holds a tie-in with the conference.

But if Auburn can defeat the Gamecocks for the second time this season, Carolina's postseason destination will be anyone's guess. Here are a few educated projections of where Carolina could be headed, based on how

it finishes. All projections assume USC does what it is supposed to and beats Troy on Saturday.

USC wins SEC title: The Gamecocks are headed to the Sugar Bowl.

USC goes 9-3 and loses the SEC title game: The Gamecocks are likely looking at a toss-up between Tampa and the Outback Bowl and the Capital One Bowl in Orlando. It is a well-known fact the Capital One Bowl is often pressured into taking the title game loser, but some wonder if it would, as it is contractually permitted to, opt for the third-place team in the SEC West, which will have 10 wins and be higher than USC in the BCS standings.

USC goes 8-4 and loses the SEC title game: Tampa and the Outback Bowl would likely be the destination. But, USC could find itself slipping to the Chick-fil-A Bowl in Atlanta or, more likely, the Gator Bowl in Jacksonville, Fla., if the fifth-place team from the West (likely Mississippi State) finishes with nine wins.

Gamecock fans won't know where they are headed until either Dec. 4 or 5. However, they can feel confident about one thing — they won't be heading to Birmingham.

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Defense stifles, dominates

Gamecocks shut down beleaguered Florida offense

Chris Cox
SPORTS EDITOR

GAINESVILLE, Fla. — Ellis Johnson doesn't care about statistics. He never has.

He cares about winning, naturally. But he concerns himself most with his defensive unit's overall performance.

How they respond to pressure. How they react to difficult situations.

Saturday night against Florida, his unit did all of the above.

"I've heard a bunch of statistics quoted," Johnson said. "But that's really not what I'm concerned about right now. I just thought they played under tremendous pressure and responded."

South Carolina's

beleaguered defense had been receiving its fair share of criticism. The pass defense was the worst in the Southeastern Conference, and the unit had seemingly been getting torched on a weekly basis.

Not so much Saturday.

The Gamecocks held Florida to a meager 35 rushing yards and 226 yards overall — the lowest by a USC opponent this season — as USC blasted the Gators 36-14 at Ben Hill Griffin Stadium.

"I thought we played a more complete game tonight [than we've had] other than a couple of things at the end," Johnson said.

Florida's offense couldn't muster much against the staunch Gamecocks, who held the Gators to just two first downs in the first half while holding UF to 67 total yards through three

quarters.

"The only touchdown they got, they actually ran [quarterback Jordan Reed] out there late," Johnson said. "And we tried to change a call to defend him, and we got two or three of our kids not playing the same defense."

Seeing as how the night began, the outcome of South Carolina's SEC East-clinching victory could have been vastly different had Johnson's bunch not responded.

Andre Debose returned the opening kickoff 99 yards to give the Gators an early touchdown lead, and after USC's offense could manage just a field goal on its ensuing possession, the Gamecock defense had its back against the wall.

But what followed were nine Florida possessions that resulted in zeroes on the board. The Gators punted on each of their next six possessions while the following three ended in two turnovers on downs and an interception.

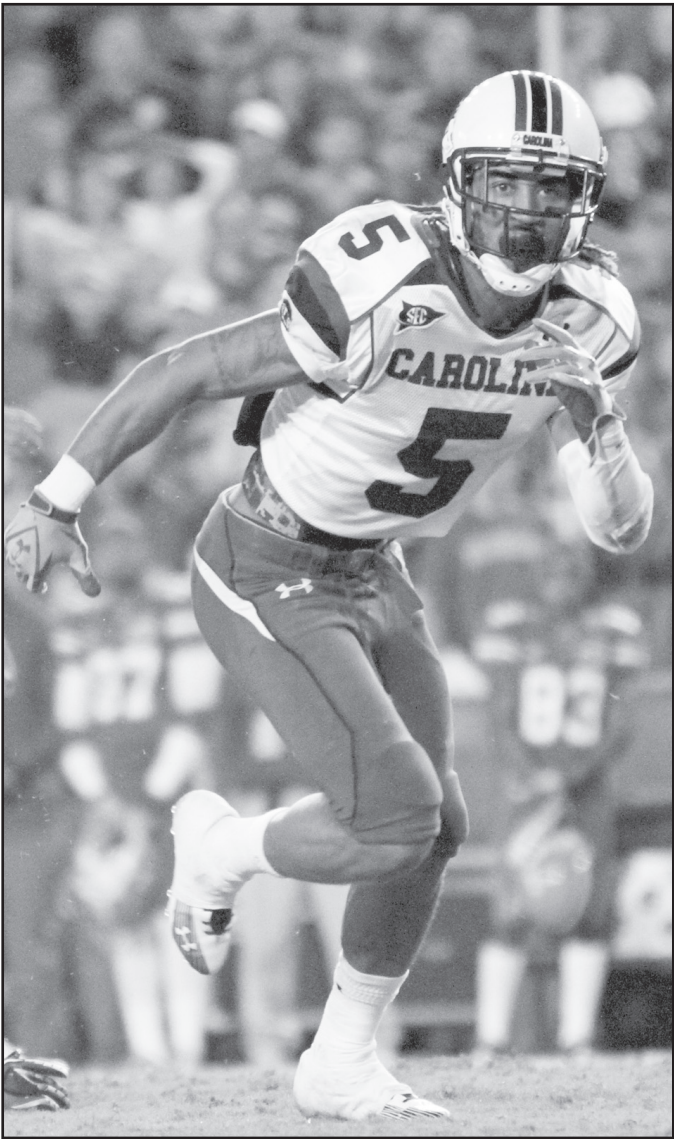
"There were very few calls, but we did mix a lot of blitz and zone pressures," Johnson said. "There were a lot of different times where we got checked into them because of their athletes at quarterback."

Added Florida center Mike Pouncey: "They blitzed us every play. They out-schemed us, and they did a great job of doing that."

Meanwhile, the Gamecocks broke the school record for sacks in a season with 35, with the record-breaking one in the second quarter by Melvin Ingram.

But, as USC knows, Johnson doesn't care about stats.

"I'm just tremendously proud of the effort they gave," Johnson said. "The way the whole thing started, they could've caved in. The players responded."



Chelsea Director / THE DAILY GAMECOCK

South Carolina corner Stephon Gilmore runs toward his teammates after his second-half interception against UF.

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36 USC VS FLORIDA 14

7-3 6-4



Chelsea Director / THE DAILY GAMECOCK

South Carolina freshman tailback Marcus Lattimore heads toward the sideline after scoring a third-quarter touchdown Saturday against Florida.

USC ● Continued from 1

a 99-yard kickoff return by Andre Debose, Lattimore helped USC get on the board with a field goal on its first possession of the game.

And after South Carolina's defense forced consecutive three-and-outs, Lattimore officially put the Gamecocks ahead for good.

The Spartanburg native carried three times for 21 yards and capped the drive with a touchdown through the heart of Florida's defense, putting the Gamecocks on top, 9-7.

But he wasn't done.

He touched the ball 14 more times in the half for more than 70 total yards as USC headed to the locker room up 15-7 behind the strength of two more Spencer Lanning field goals.

"He's something special because Marcus sure does make us look a whole lot better than we are," center T.J. Johnson said.

And while Lattimore may have made his line look good, the same could be said of his defense.

The freshman's ability to keep the Gamecocks on the field paid dividends for No. 22 South Carolina (7-3, 5-3 SEC), as the Gamecocks ate up more than 20 minutes of the clock in the first half of play.

And as a result, the inept Gator offense produced just two first downs through two quarters to go along with a measly 51 yards.

"We knew coming into this game it was going to be our defense versus their defense," defensive tackle Travian Robertson said. "We just played well and out-played their defense."

The success continued in the second half, as the Gamecocks were able to punch it into the end zone on their first drive, pushing the lead over No. 24 Florida (6-4, 4-4) to 15.

"Basically, they did whatever they wanted to when they wanted to," Florida safety Ahmad Black said. "We didn't play Gator defense the way we're supposed to."

Quarterback Stephen Garcia converted on third-and-long twice before Lattimore got the final 39 yards on the ground, including the final one from 21 yards out, as the Gamecocks quickly found themselves in complete control.

"Me and some of my buddies thought we could come in and move the ball on them, but we had no idea it was going to come down like that," Lanning said. "It's just a credit to coach Spurrier and all our coaches for getting us ready."

Meanwhile, the Florida defense continued to sputter, as the Gators finished with just 11 first downs and 35 rushing yards while going 2-for-14 on third down. They lost the time of possession battle by more than 20 minutes.

"I think it was just execution," Meyer said. "Our guys were ready for this week. They gave us everything they had in practice. That was a

pretty good team we played out there."

A pair of touchdown runs by Garcia and Lattimore iced it from there, as Spurrier received his bath in purple energy drink while the Gamecock fans in attendance cheered in jubilation.

A celebration 19 years in the making.

"That's all we talked about," Lattimore said. "After every practice, every drill, we were saying, 'SEC!'"

Up next in league play for USC: a date with the undefeated Auburn Tigers, who edged the Gamecocks 35-27 on the Plains back in September.

Only this time, the rematch will be in the climate-controlled atmosphere of the Georgia Dome in Atlanta — a place the Gamecocks have never played in as a member of the ultra-competitive Southeastern Conference.

"Going to Atlanta, that's what we've been talking about since we first got recruited here," Garcia said. "The coaches said, 'We're going to play in Atlanta one day.' It took four years, but we're finally here."

And maybe after that momentous day is over, Spurrier's Gamecocks will be a little more experienced when it comes to postgame celebration.

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Notebook: Win thrills president

Pastides inspired by history-making Gamecock victory

James Kratch
ASSISTANT SPORTS EDITOR

GAINESVILLE, Fla. — The 2010 South Carolina football team is the first in school history to win an SEC East title, and USC President Harris Pastides couldn't be happier about it.

"We're walking on air tonight," said Pastides in the waning moments of USC's 36-14 win over Florida. "We're going to go to Atlanta; we're going to make the Gamecock Nation very, very proud."

"Alabama was a phenomenal, but we wanted to win a championship, not just to knock off Alabama. We're doing that tonight."

Pastides said he felt the presence of longtime USC radio play-by-play man Bob Fulton with him the entire night. Fulton, who called South Carolina athletic events for 43 years, passed away Nov. 3 at the age of 89.

"I was rubbing my [2010 College World Series] ring and asking Bob Fulton to call a good game for us. I think he did just that for us," Pastides said.

Pigskins for all: Dubbing Saturday's 36-14 SEC Eastern Division-clinching drubbing of Florida a "tremendous team win," coach Steve Spurrier made an executive decision on how to approach the time-honored tradition of handing out game balls to reward tremendous performances.

The call? Be all-inclusive with the process.

"We really just gave everybody on the team a game ball," Spurrier said.

Spurrier did indicate, though, that Marcus Lattimore, who ran for 212 yards and three touchdowns, would have been the honoree under normal circumstances.

"Marcus gets one about every week, so he was fine with just spreading it with the entire team," Spurrier said.

Bowls and scouts: It was a busy night for the upper echelon of SEC-affiliated bowl games in Gainesville. Representatives from the Sugar, Capital One, Chick-fil-A and Outback Bowls were in attendance. Scouts from the Green Bay Packers, Tampa Bay Buccaneers and Houston Texans were also at the game.

Winning returns: When Andre Debose returned the opening kickoff of the game 99 yards for a touchdown and a 7-0 UF lead just 14 seconds into the game, USC didn't seem to bat an eye.

No wonder — the Gamecocks had won the last two games in which they allowed the opponent to return a kickoff for a score, and after Saturday's game, that streak is up to three straight.

Clemson's C.J. Spiller returned the opening kickoff for a score in USC's 34-17 win over the Tigers last season, and Vanderbilt's Warren Norman took one to the house in the Commodores' 14-10 loss to Carolina last fall.

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Kratch: Words of past echo throughout monumental win

Spurrier's first speech as USC coach finally comes to fruition

GAINESVILLE, Fla. — When words mean something, they stand the test of time, remembered years after they were spoken.

Take, for example, what Stephen Orr Spurrier said on Nov. 23, 2004, as he was introduced as the 32nd football coach of the University of South Carolina.

"I'd like to borrow a phrase from the Boston Red Sox," Spurrier said, referencing the newly crowned world champions of professional baseball. "Why not us? Why not the University of South Carolina Gamecocks?"

"Why can't we get to the top of the SEC?"

Over the past week, as USC prepared to play Florida for the SEC Eastern Division championship, those words were repeated for inspiration, because that's what Spurrier meant for them to be close to six years ago.

The message was clear: If the Red Sox, those pained New Englanders, could overcome 86 years of anguish and the burdensome specter of the "Curse of the Bambino" to win the World Series, then, by God, the Fighting Gamecocks could triumph over a history of self-defeatism and losing and the infamous "Chicken Curse" to reign over the nation's premier football conference.

Now, even though Spurrier likely had no idea, those words possibly have a different meaning — one of prophecy.

To win the World Series, remember, the Red Sox had to first eliminate their hated archrivals — the New York Yankees, the team Boston sold one George Herman "Babe" Ruth to in 1919 and watched win 26 world championships as they stood empty-handed. And, the Sox had to do so in improbable fashion, becoming the first team to rally from a 3-0 series deficit in history.

It remains to be seen if the Gamecocks will

win the SEC, but they'll have the chance to do so, because here in the Swamp, they beat their Yankees, and they did it in the most improbable fashion possible.

Coming into Saturday night, Florida had won 208 games, 10 SEC East championships, eight SEC titles and three national championships in the past 20 years.

South Carolina had won 105 games and no titles of any sort in the same time span.

It didn't look like that on the field, though. USC totally dominated the Gators en route to the first division title in school history, and it did so in a manner that left every one of the 90,885 heads in attendance shaking in shocked disbelief, be it jubilant or despondent astonishment.

The first 14 seconds of the game and Andre Debose's 99-yard kickoff return for a touchdown removed, USC outscored UF 36-7 over the final 59:46 of the game. It completely out-classed the Gators on offense. It stifled UF defensively. It out-coached a staff that has won two national titles in the past four seasons.

And, it did all of this in a building in which it was 0-12 all-time against a team it had only defeated once since World War II.

Pretty darn improbable, huh? But, then again, maybe it wasn't. Maybe it was fate. After their monumental defeat of the Yankees, many Red Sox players and fans said they felt it was destiny they had to go through such a hated enemy to make history. USC felt the same sentiment after this one.

"We beat Georgia. We beat Tennessee. We knew there was just Florida left," defensive tackle Travian Robertson said. "We knew coming down to it, it was going to be Florida."

It came down to Florida. It came down to Spurrier returning to the kingdom he built. It came down to USC needing to do something monumental and transcendent, to finally reach the summit of the mountain it has striven to reach for years.

It did just that, delivering Spurrier, perched atop the shoulders of his offensive linemen and striking a pose reminiscent of Gen. George Washington crossing the Delaware River on



Chelsea Director / THE DAILY GAMECOCK

South Carolina freshman running back Marcus Lattimore runs for a first down against Florida.

Christmas Eve 1776, to the block "F" at midfield a winner in Gainesville once again. It was a magical night for USC, but not one it wants to make the be-all and end-all of its season.

"We're still not the SEC champs," Spurrier said. "We've won our division, and we'll try to play our best in Atlanta."

When Spurrier was hired, many said he'd regret taking the job, he'd never get to Atlanta and he'd never be able to win a SEC title at South Carolina — not even in "400 years," as one media member claimed. The same media member also said of Spurrier at USC, "He's driving a Volkswagen against those Jaguars."

The Gamecocks will likely fly to Atlanta, but they should buy as many of those old 1970s VW vans as necessary, pile in and head down I-26.

Why? Because there's another thing about words — when they're proven wrong, you're supposed to make those who spoke them eat them.



James Kratch
Third-year
English student



SEC tickets tough find

Students must scramble to gain admittance to league championship

Josh Dawsey
NEWS EDITOR

At least some USC students will have the opportunity to buy SEC championship game tickets. Jerry Brewer, USC's associate vice president for Student Affairs, said an allotment will be announced later this week. Tickets will be allocated through the TicketReturn system, consistent with other games this year. The game is already sold out to the general public. Both Auburn and USC were given about 15,000 tickets each after winning division championships this weekend. Details will be announced in the

upcoming days, Brewer said. If you're willing to pay the big bucks, you can buy tickets online through StubHub or a similar provider. A quick check Sunday afternoon showed tickets were going for \$300 or more, and many of those seats are in the upper deck. But for those students not selected in USC's lottery to buy a ticket at face value, it may be the only alternative. Word to the wise, though: Check and double-check the reliability of all online tickets. It's easy to get burned, pay \$300 or more and not even receive entry into the game.

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Victory for all Gamecocks

Once mighty program shows little bite even on home field

GAINESVILLE, FLA. — With their heads slumped and shaking in disgust, the masses left the Swamp in hordes long before the game was over. This was supposed to be the Swamp — a stadium that roars its might and a place where only Gators are supposed to get out alive. The proud banners of Heisman trophies and national championships adorn its mighty walls. It sure felt mighty two years ago, as the Gators dominated in a 50-point victory beneath the pouring rain and a hapless crew of Gamecocks. Saturday night, it was empty and lifeless by game's end, with only the Gamecocks singing into the night. Simply put, the Gamecocks delivered a beatdown. This was one for the Head Ball Coach, whose coaching abilities had been questioned in the past few years. "Does he still have it?" the naysayers wondered.






Josh Dawsey
Third-year print journalism student

As the players doused him in Gatorade and carried him across the field of a stadium he nicknamed, the answer was obviously yes. This was one for the Gamecock faithful, including a 70-year-old fan crying and laughing at the same time as he walked out of the stadium. He often wondered if the Chicken Curse would ever end. The answer was a joyful yes, which he told his daughter while crying through the phone. This was one for the team that endured a painful loss at Kentucky and was thoroughly crushed last week at home. Would they fold and fall apart like Gamecocks have been known to do? The answer was no. This was one for Gamecocks, near and far, who have painfully endured years of the Chicken Curse. Now it's dead. A baseball title in Omaha and a football championship in Gainesville made sure of it.


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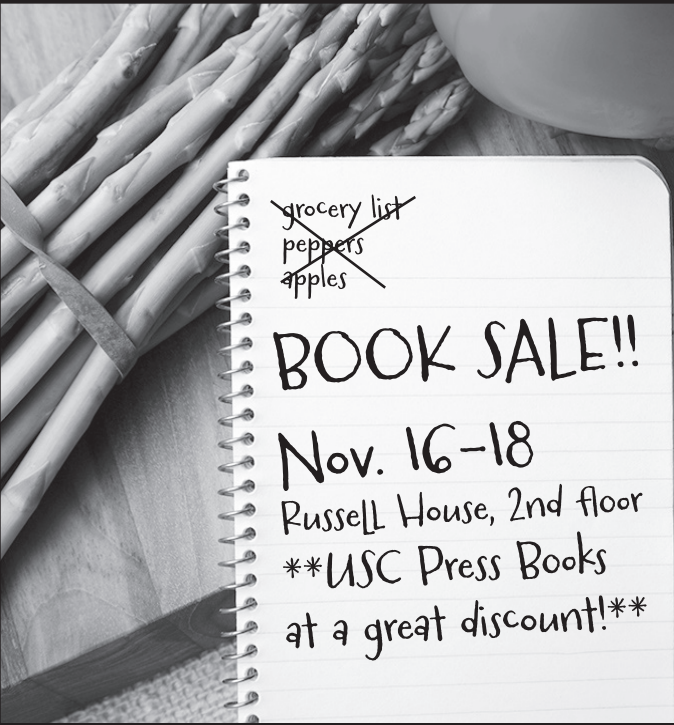


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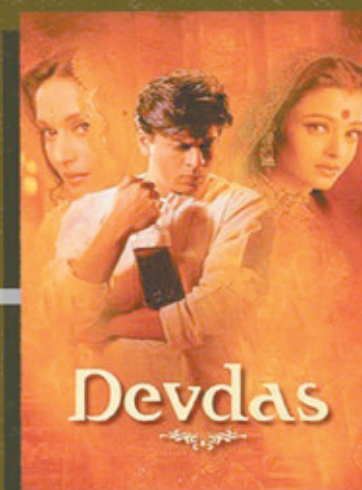
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USC needs to allocate ample student tickets

According to university officials, some lucky students will be able to gain access to tickets to the SEC championship through TicketReturn, which means a portion of USC's allotted tickets will go directly to current students.

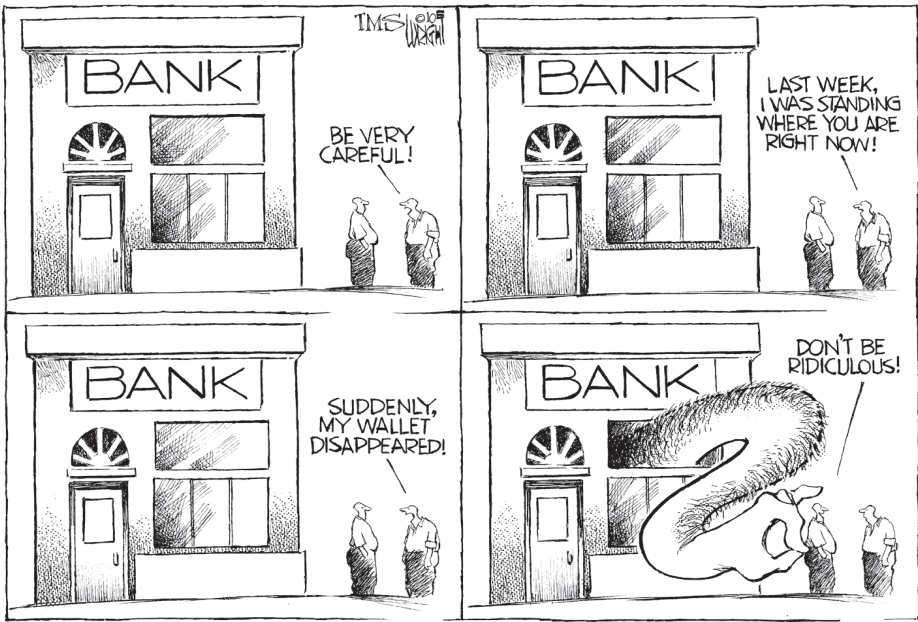
Although we wish a majority of USC's allotted tickets would go to students, we understand that can't happen. Gamecock Club members give lots of money to the University, and most have been supporters of Gamecock Athletics for several years, so it's important that they receive tickets to the championship, too. There are over 45 active Gamecock Club chapters in South Carolina alone.

We hope USC officials will effectively communicate with students so that those who can afford tickets and are able to attend the game acquire them from legitimate sources. It would also be great if the school could organize a shuttle service from Columbia to Atlanta and back so students could get back to South Carolina in time to study for final exams.

The SEC championship is the equivalent of the Super Bowl for college football. Obviously, not all students will be able to attend the game in Atlanta. The University should also make this game an exciting event for fans unable to make it to Atlanta. There should be multiple programs to participate in on campus on game day. Maybe we could watch the game on a big screen at the Colonial Life Arena or in the Russell House Ballroom. Celebrating with other fans is important to students and will help make the game a memorable part of their college careers.

No matter if you go to the game or not, cheer on the Gamecocks with the same spirt you'd have any Saturday at Williams-Brice. We could actually win this.

“Celebrating with other fans is important to students and will help make the game a memorable part of their college careers.”



DOWN THE RABBIT HOLE
Scholarships neglect middle class

Students from extreme ends of spectrum receive more financial assistance

From housing costs to meal plans to constantly rising tuition, there's one thing that most middle-class parents and students can agree on: There is nothing easy about affording a college education. With the near start of a new semester, people are once again on the hunt for money to pay for college — that is, those who are not in the minute percentage that doesn't have to worry about tuition thanks to either rare merit-based scholarships or grant-based scholarships.

When it comes to money for education in the United States, there seems to be two small safety islands for two small populations of people. On one side sits those who have a low enough income to be financially protected by the government. On the other side sits those up-and-coming Albert Einsteins and Yo-Yo Mas who are abnormally smart or talented enough to be eligible for those few presidential or music or football full rides. And, of course, there are those families who have a high enough income to not have to worry at all about little things like college tuition. But everyone else who isn't in one of those categories — aka the vast majority of the middle class — is floating around somewhere between those two islands wondering why there isn't one for them too.

Thus a question is reawakened, perhaps one that hasn't been asked since those



Alice Chang
First-year international business student

stressful days back when we were all choosing where we wanted to go to college: Why is there nothing in the pot for the middle class? The answer is simple, and we all know it. There's just not enough in the government's share for everyone, and the low-income students get first dibs.

There's nothing wrong with the idea of federal grant-based financial aid. It evens out the playing, or learning, field for the less financially endowed. Perhaps there is a better way to allocate what is in the government's pot so that the middle class isn't left stranded. Take, for instance, Singapore's system. Students in Singapore are given certain amounts of scholarship money for college education based on their standardized test performance in high school. What if the United States adopted this system and split its resources between this and federal aid? It seems simple, but it makes sense. Those who qualify for federal aid will still get the money but would receive less. But if they did well enough on standardized tests, they could get rewarded monetarily and add that on. A system like this would not only encourage more middle-class students to become higher achievers and reward them for it, but it would also ensure that low-income students receiving a large amount of federal aid are academically competent with those who don't qualify for it.

America's higher education costs more than that of anywhere else in the world but is also the best in the world. If we want to keep it that way, we should do more to ensure that students — rich or poor, Einstein-spawn or not — aren't left trying to go up a creek without a paddle.

Spending on education not wasteful
Student voices go unheard

Few South Carolina legislators are unaware of the very real fiscal crisis government agencies are in. Even fewer are aware of the toll their solutions will have on institutions like USC.

These legislators who are so trigger-happy to cut spending for students every year feel education should be politicized. As Rep. Chip Limehouse stated in reference to USC's recent lecture from Jenny Sanford, according to GreenvilleOnline.com, "I would urge the students who chose these speakers to look across the country and see what the voters are saying."

Aside from how appalling it is for legislators to suggest our students politicize their decisions, there is a disappointing fact Limehouse seems to forget: USC students are voters, too, and just as citizens of this state cast a ballot every election cycle, students vote every semester when they pay their rising tuition to any public university. With every tuition payment comes the right for students to participate in the way funds are allocated, be it through teacher evaluations, Carolina Productions or other opportunities higher education institutions give students to approve or disapprove of spending.

Limehouse seems to feel otherwise. As the same article quotes, "Voters are saying, 'Stop wasteful spending.' I would hope ... they would seek speakers who would come for a more economical fee." But as any student or faculty member struggling to find funding can tell you, Limehouse is out of touch with how "economical" the University has become.

For any outsider to call student spending "wasteful" is an insult to those who work to provide that quality education to this state's citizens. State legislators need to reevaluate what "wasteful spending" really means. Otherwise, the wasteful spending the state should cut next is our senators' salaries.



Frank Avery
Fourth-year political science and religious studies student

New party has chance to revitalize Russia

Election results will determine country's relationship with US

This week will mark the two-week point after the Republican electoral "tidal wave," and not much has changed. Sarah Palin is still whining about how everyone needs to stand up to government. President Barack Obama is still making comments that lend support to the birthers, and Rep. John Boehner is still convinced liberals are out to destroy America. This leaves us, as democratic citizens, wondering if there is an election that even matters anymore. The answer is yes, and this important election is going to take place in Russia.

Since perestroika, Russia's trial run of Western ideas, Russia has been a country that can't quite make up its mind. Part of the populous seems to desire a controlling figure in their lives while others want a system more similar to that of the United States. Russia's upcoming presidential election in 2012 will presumably pit Prime Minister Vladimir Putin, his hand-

picked successor Dmitry Medvedev and possibly the governor of St. Petersburg, Valentina Matviyenko, against each other.

Putin and Medvedev had a falling-out recently over two issues: the handling of Russia's massive summer fire and the sacking of the mayor of Moscow. Medvedev seems to want to clean up the culture of corruption that has invaded the Russia political system since communism's collapse. Putin is hell-bent on preserving a system he helped build and the personality cult he now controls.

This feud presents the first real opportunity for a party other than the United Russia Party to assume control because of the discontent the average Russian feels with the government. What Matviyenko represents is something different. She has revitalized St. Petersburg and made it the crown jewel of Russia. She has the opportunity to calm down the death squads currently searching for



Jason Sigmon
First-year international business student

the mole who exposed the Russian spy ring here in the U.S.

What could possibly throw everything into flux is if WikiLeaks follows through on its promise to unleash top secret Russian documents. Currently Russians can live in denial of the extent their politicians are messing up Russia, but the leak would shove the information in their faces. Furthermore, the Russian government has already promised to hunt down and destroy WikiLeaks. However, this could backfire with the Russian populous saying, "Enough is enough; we've given you our country, and you have run it into the ground."

This election is important to the U.S. because Russia is still the main sphere of influence in both Asia and the Middle East. Russians have the most technology. Finally, what oil did to the Middle East in the 20th century, natural gas could very well do for Russia. If peak oil does come about in the next few years, natural gas presents the most viable option to preventing economic collapse. This election will determine if we have a stable friendship with Russia or Cold War 2.0.

IT'S YOUR RIGHT

The goal of The Daily Gamecock's Viewpoints page is to stimulate discussion in the University of South Carolina community. All published authors are expected to provide logical arguments to back their views.

The Daily Gamecock encourages readers to voice opinions and offers three methods of expression: letters to the editor, guest columns and feedback on dailygamecock.com.

Letters and guest columns should be submitted via e-mail to gamecockeditor@sc.edu. Letters must be 200 to 300 words in length and include the author's name,

year in school and area of study.

We also invite student leaders and USC faculty members to submit guest columns. Columnists should keep submissions to about 500 words in length and include the author's name and position. Guest columns are limited to three per author per semester.

The editor reserves the right to edit and condense submissions for length and clarity, or not publish at all.

All submissions become the property of The Daily Gamecock and must conform to the legal standards of USC Student Media.

CORRECTIONS

If you find an error in today's edition of The Daily Gamecock, let us know about it. E-mail gamecockopinions@sc.edu and we will print the correction in our next issue.

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The Daily Gamecock is the editorially independent student newspaper of the University of South Carolina. It is published daily during the fall and spring semesters and nine times during the summer with the exception of university holidays and exam periods. Opinions expressed in The Daily Gamecock are those of the editors or author and not those of the University of South Carolina.

The Board of Student Publications and Communications is the publisher of The Daily Gamecock. The Department of Student Media is the newspaper's parent organization. The Daily Gamecock is supported in part by student-activity fees. One free copy per reader. Additional copies may be purchased for \$1 each from the Department of Student Media.

Film festival examines cultural issues

Often-overlooked Native American filmmakers take opportunity to screen, discuss work

Neal Hughes
STAFF WRITER

Cultural films have been a staple of and have helped shape the industry for years, with each culture seemingly carving out its own respected genre. From occasionally pompous but exquisitely artistic French films, to the savage, brutal carnage emblematic of recent Japanese releases, nothing shapes a particular film like the culture and race from which it originates.

While many of these cultural pieces have become mainstays during Oscar season, some have been overlooked or simply forgotten. Fortunately, Will Moreau Goins is putting forth his best effort to make sure that this tragic fate does not befall Native American films and filmmakers.

In 1997, Goins set out to start a film festival that he said would “promote a celebration of Native American Indian heritage.” Armed with a passion and frustration at the unavailability of Native American films, Goins started his festival at the Nickelodeon Theatre. Fast-forward 13 years

and the festival is now the “longest running of its type in the Southeast” and is more much panoramic in scale, including films from indigenous people from all over the world. While the festival has grown, Goins said its original mission has still stayed steadfast to “educate people about the contemporary Native American issues.”

The festival began Nov. 12, and will run through Nov. 18. This is the second year the Russell House Theater will be used as a venue for showcasing films. Goins believes this festival will differ from the previous ones, in the sense that each film will receive the true attention it deserves, with an effort to hand out fliers beforehand and provide ready information about how to purchase tickets for the larger events.

Goins stressed that the festival would not be limited to documentaries. He made sure to note that people expecting a typical documentary look into contemporary Native American life are “sadly mistaken.” Instead, the films will cover a multitude of genres from shorts to dramatic features. All of the films showcased at Russell House will be free, and Goins invites students to come in between classes, bring their lunches and enjoy the films.

Not only will students have the chance to view something

they otherwise most likely never would, they will be able pose questions to Native American leaders and filmmakers about the topics showcased in the films. All of the films being shown at Russell House are under an hour, with only one clocking in right at 60 minutes.

This film festival began to raise awareness, provide a fresh perspective and make enormous strides for a culture that is regularly either misrepresented or completely absent in contemporary film. It is clear there is certain lack of appreciation for Native American film, partially stemming from the fact that it is not considered part of the mainstream, but this festival’s continued growth is evidence that there is an audience for these films and a group of filmmakers anxious to create them.

With the convenience of access Goins has been sure to provide for students, all students owe it to themselves to make their way to the Russell House Theater and watch something socially relevant. It’s an opportunity to see the cultural power of film and interact with filmmakers working to keep their culture an integral part of their work.

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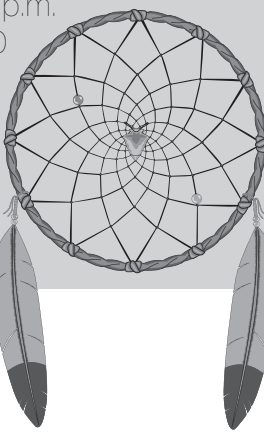
The 13th Annual
Native American Indian Film
Festival of the Southeast

Calendar of Events

Monday, Nov. 15
1 to 3 p.m.
Russell House Theater

Tuesday, Nov. 16
1 to 3 p.m.
Russell House Theater

Thursday, Nov. 18
3:30 to 5:30 p.m.
Gambrell 250





Courtesy of interactive.wxii.org

This week, the Native American Indian Film Festival of the Southeast will screen works by filmmakers like Neil Diamond (above).

JIMMY’S TRAILER PARK

“Fighter,” “Fockers” contend for holiday box office

Jimmy Gilmore
THE MIX EDITOR

Welcome back, for the first time in far too long a time, to the Trailer Park, the only roundup of new movie previews you’ll ever need. With the holiday — and Oscar — season starting to loom ever closer, here’s a quick look into several trailers fresh off the Internet.

The preview for “The Fighter” has been around for a few weeks, but on the heels of the film’s positive reception at last week’s AFI Festival, the new David O. Russell-directed drama bears mention. Starring Mark Wahlberg as Boston boxer Mickey Ward and focusing on Ward’s strained relationships with the people around him, notably his drug addict brother (Christian Bale), “The Fighter” is at first glance a sappy, based-on-a-true-story sports movie about overcoming adversity.

But the smartly edited and utterly

rousing trailer make it out to be something more, especially under the careful direction of Russell, whose previous films (“Three Kings,” “I Heart Huckabees”) have always defied convention.

The trailer casts “The Fighter” as a film that, much like Martin Scorsese’s masterpiece “Raging Bull,” makes fighting a part of an inherently flawed human condition, where people subject themselves to fights inside and outside the ring. With a Dec. 10 limited release, “The Fighter” could very easily build momentum into the Oscar race.

The full-length trailer for “Little Fockers,” the third installment of the “Meet the Parents” series, has hit. The series is retaining all of its major players — Ben Stiller, Robert De Niro, Dustin Hoffman and Barbra Streisand, among others — but is switching directors from Jay Roach to Paul Weitz (“American Pie,” “About a Boy”).

The trailer replays some of the staple jokes and interactions from the first two

films, making it seem like “Fockers” may be aiming more for redundancy than taking its series in a particularly new direction. Not that there’s anything wrong in watching Stiller try to outsmart De Niro, but it still begs the question of why this movie is even on deck for a holiday release outside of being a shameless cash cow.

While it seems like every year is marked by an obligatory World War II film where an “important” director tries to make a dramatically profound film, there’s something undeniably stirring about the trailer for Peter Weir’s “The Way Back.”

Based on the true story of a group of prisoners that escapes a Siberian POW camp and subsequently must walk thousands of miles to get home, the trailer is at once epic and beautiful in vision and drawn from human emotions. It features a terrific ensemble in Ed Harris, Colin Farrell, Jim Sturgess and Saoirse Ronan, and for six-time Oscar nominee Weir (“The Truman Show,” “Witness”) it could be a chance to return to the spotlight for the first time

since his 2003 nautical epic, “Master and Commander: The Far Side of the World.”

Director Edward Zwick, commonly known for his period action films like “Glory” and “The Last Samurai,” takes a spin at contemporary romantic comedy in his new film, “Love and Other Drugs.”

With the charisma of leads Jake Gyllenhaal and Anne Hathaway, the preview puts front and center a raunchier and perhaps more blatantly superficial reworking of the rom-com formula. While these are untested waters for Zwick, and while the trailer leaves several questions about whether or not this film will make any kind of impact on its Thanksgiving weekend release (or perhaps the Golden Globe race), it’s still got a lot of potential to satisfy.

All trailers for these and other upcoming films can be found on youtube.com

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Gameday music fosters community for students

Songs important step to shared experience

It's midway through the third quarter. Coach Steve Spurrier just called a timeout, and the game's going a little slow anyway. We've moshed to "Sandstorm" some 20-odd times now, and just as it's starting to lose its effect, a sound technician changes things up, and the familiar sound of the "I- I- I- I- I came to dance, dance, dance, dance..." opening of Taio Cruz's "Dynamite" blares out of the stadium's PA system.



Colin Campbell
Second-year
print journalism
student

Almost instantaneously, the student section is jolted out of the daze of the timeout — we forego the opportunity to rest our tired legs and sit for the break in the game and jump back up to "throw [our] hands up in the air."

No one stops to look around and make sure that everyone else is doing it.

It's understood that they are.

No one asks why we're having a dance party singing about clubs in a stadium in plain daylight.

It doesn't matter.

And when it's over, no one makes too big of a deal out of it.

It's just part of being a college student, part of being a Gamecock.

There is a unity that comes from hearing songs like "Dynamite" and Flo Rida's "Club Can't Handle Me" in a party setting like a game. While some radio DJs at WUSC might disagree, there's a certain power to the Top 40 hit. The songs all have definitive beats and catchy melodies, everyone knows the words and, most of all, they provide an escape for everyone to just dance and

sing along with no fear of judgment.

But it's not the songs themselves that work such wonders. There are literally thousands of songs that could be played that would have people dancing and waving their hands. It's the people. This type of setting we are privileged to be a part of as students is so rare in our world today that when we are given the opportunity to be a part of one, we need to seize it. Everyone sheds their insecurities and enjoys being part of something greater — not merely a congregation of students, but a community, a body.

This is what makes Carolina special. This unity stood behind the basketball team as they beat No. 1 Kentucky last season. It was behind the Gamecocks as MVP Jackie Bradley Jr. and the baseball team knocked off Clemson and went on to win the College World Series.

And the fans in garnet were behind Spurrier's Carolina football team as they clobbered a No. 1 Alabama and went on to Gainesville to defeat the formidable Florida Gators amid Urban Meyer's blue-out in the Swamp. As our teams make history, the fans share in that history.

The point? It's more than the music that brings us together. It's the spirit — of a school, of a student body — that knows anything is possible. Whether that music is "2001," "Step to the Rear," "Sandstorm" or countless other songs, they help foster an undying sense of community.

Never stop cheering, never stop dancing and, when in doubt, heed Mr. Cruz: throw your hands up in the air, celebrate and live your life.

SEC Championship, here we come.

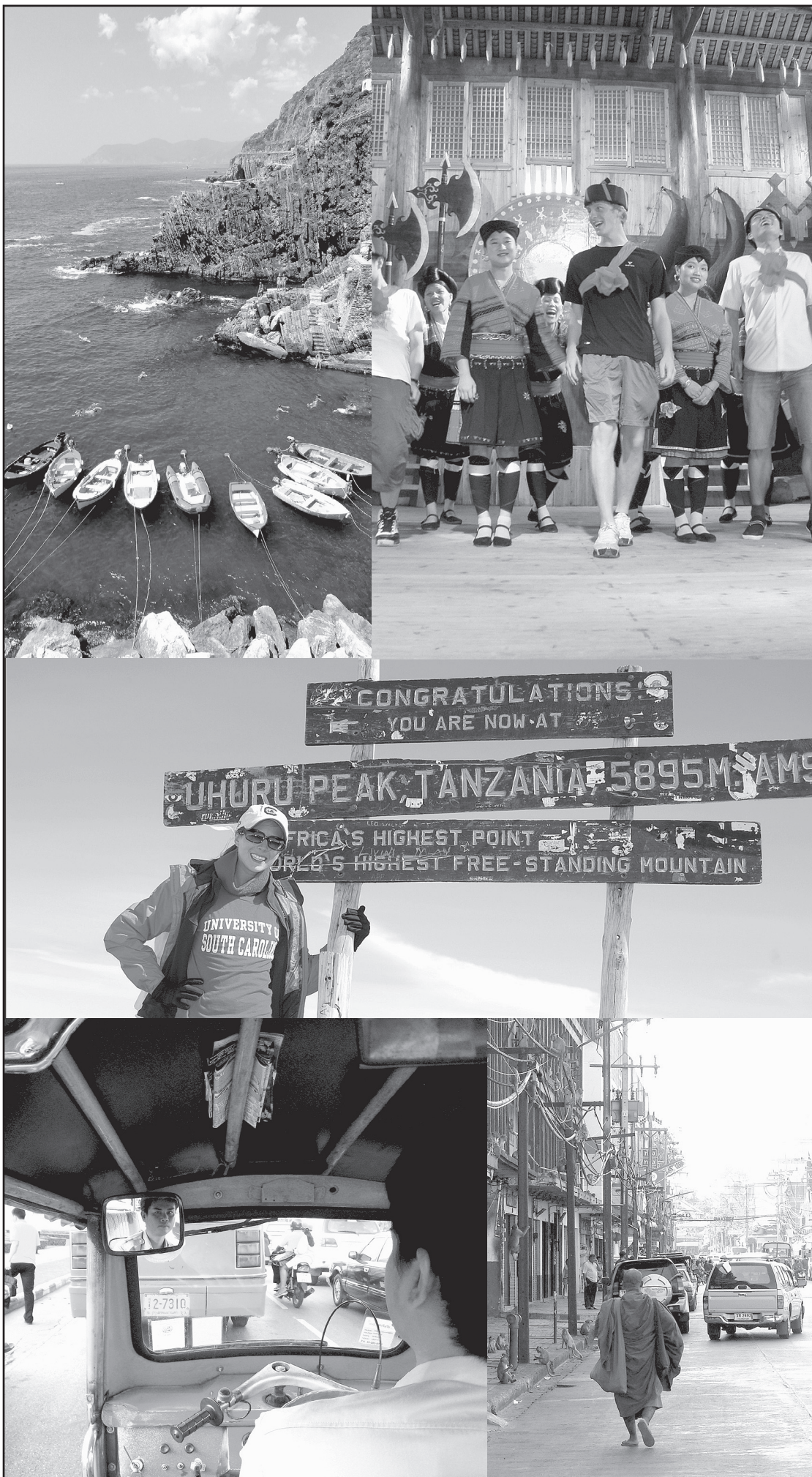
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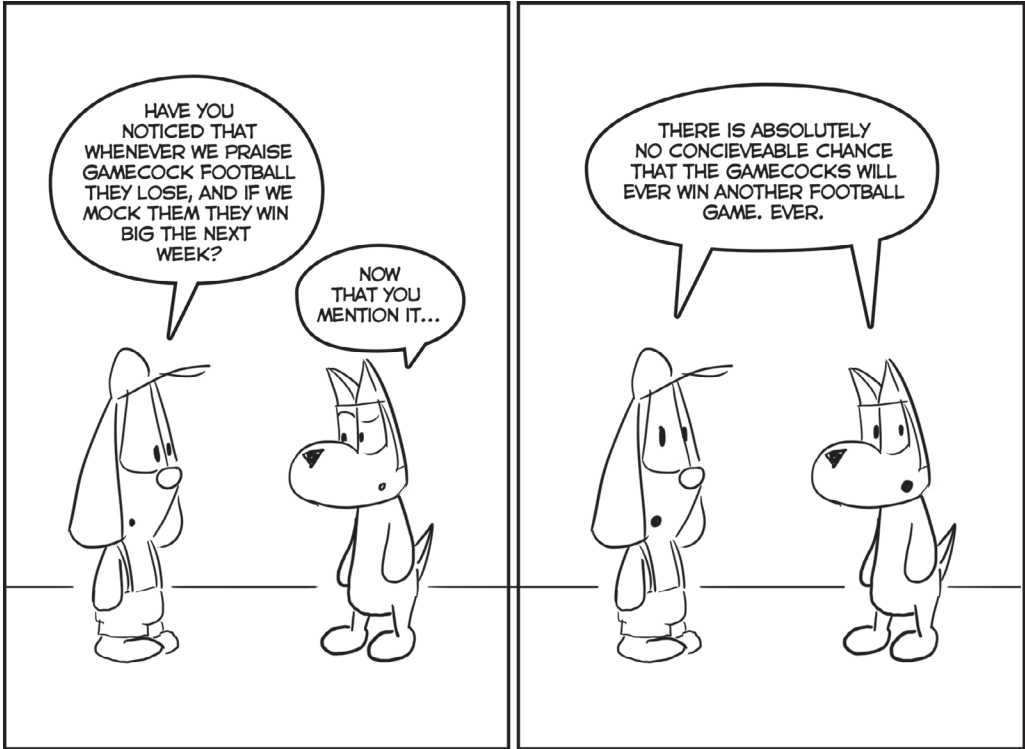


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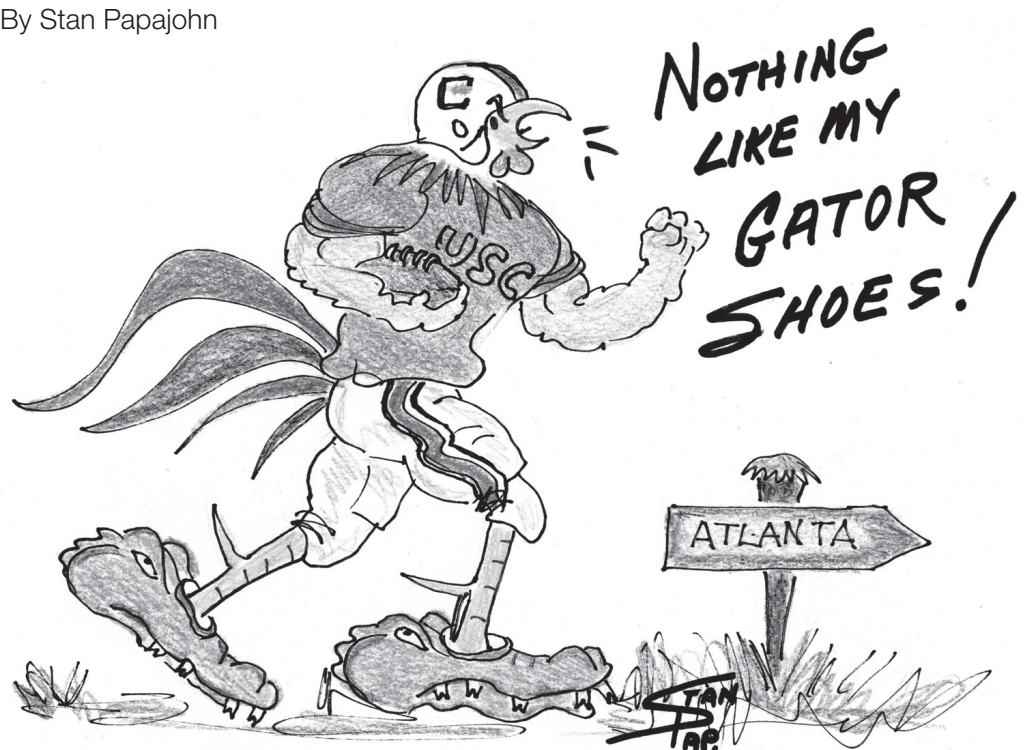
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Bunny and Ravy • By Marlowe Leverette / The Daily Gamecock



By Stan Papajohn



HOROSCOPES



ARIES Power has been building for several days. Today you get a sense of how to use it for your advantage.

TAURUS Think bigger than you did yesterday. Your idea may carry you into the larger workplace with flair.

GEMINI Recent creative efforts now produce unusual opportunities for change. Take a practical view of multiple alternatives and then take charge of the direction.

CANCER Your partner or associate has lots of ideas you can grab on to now. Choose a task that feels comfortable.

LEO A strong leader steps on stage and directs the practical effort now. In the process, you perceive more opportunities to create the desired changes. Take action.

VIRGO Use your powers of persuasion to gather everyone for a playful day. Leave serious thinking behind.

LIBRA Gather everyone together around the kitchen table to present today's options. There's a lot to get done.

SCORPIO Recent activities prove most effective in conveying your passion. Now you shift from your typical assertive style toward greater optimism.

SAGITTARIUS You see a way to earn more income now. Feel your way through the process of shifting gears to make time for this new idea.

CAPRICORN Use your considerable powers to get everything ready early. Today has the potential for a memorable social event.

AQUARIUS Females take the upper hand by planning in secret. They have great ideas. You're surprised and pleased.

PISCES Group effort accomplishes far more than you expect. Get everyone together early and promise goodies when the work is done.

The Scene @USC



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5:30 AND 8 P.M., \$6.50
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CALENDAR

WHAT: SPURS National Philanthropy Day
WHEN: 10 a.m.
WHERE: Greene Street

WHAT: Native American Film Festival
WHEN: 1 p.m.
WHERE: Russell House Theatre

WHAT: Fraternity Council
WHEN: 4 p.m.
WHERE: RH 315

WHAT: The Daily Gamecock Social Media Campaign
WHEN: 5 p.m.
WHERE: RH Lobby

WHAT: Sorority Council
WHEN: 5:30 p.m.
WHERE: RH 303

WHAT: FMLA meeting
WHEN: 6 p.m.
WHERE: RH 304

WHAT: Students for Life meeting
WHEN: 7 p.m.
WHERE: RH 304

WHAT: Mountaineering and Whitewater Club meeting
WHEN: 7 p.m.
WHERE: PSC 210

WHAT: Amnesty International meeting
WHEN: 8 p.m.
WHERE: RH 315

Crossword

Edited by Wayne Robert Williams

11/15/10

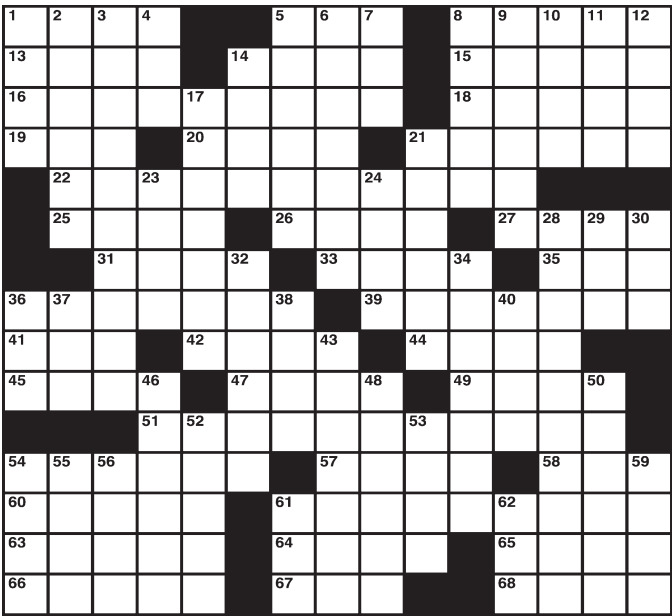
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- Across**
1 Self-titled 2000s sitcom
5 Missal site
8 Strip in the paper
13 Part of, as a surprise party plan
14 Mitchell of music
15 Blown away
16 French Open surface
18 Innsbruck is its capital
19 Knock off a sub?
20 “There ___ ‘I’ in ‘team’”
21 Odessa natives
22 Cramming session
25 China is in it, with “the”
26 Disbelieving dying words
27 Coat on the slopes
31 1944 Normandy battle site
33 Look
35 Lamb’s mom
36 Sot’s milieu
39 Fixed income
41 Letter writer?
42 Makizushi wrapper
44 Took much more than one should have
45 Legendary Greek vessel
47 Francesca of “Collateral Damage”
49 Meat source
51 Joker on the line
54 Sway on a curve
57 Ballesteros on the links
58 Actor Cage, casually
60 Where to learn une leçon
61 Just fall short
63 Prehistoric beasts, briefly
64 Urgent care abbr.
65 “It’s crystal clear”
66 Online social appointment
67 Craving
68 Catfish Row opera heroine



- 6 Implants deeply
7 Amusing quality
8 Makes reference to
9 Colorful quartz varieties
10 Wellington __, New York Giants co-owner for 45+ years
11 Arms-up declaration
12 Disney Store sales
14 Kid around
17 Rain storage reservoir
21 Faithfully following
23 “Sing ___ Song”: Merle Haggard hit
24 Salt Lake City university team
28 Like some pliers
29 Hold title to
30 Make an honest man of, so to speak
32 Reagan biographer Peggy
34 Piano benchmark, and a feature of 16-, 22-, 51- and 61-Across
36 Place to get naked, perhaps
37 Flooey lead-in
38 Birdhouse bird

Solution for 11/12/10

H	I	T	N	E	C	K	B	A	S	K	I	N
I	V	Y	T	R	U	E	A	T	T	I	R	E
C	A	P	E	H	O	R	N	B	L	O	K	E
K	N	O	X	S	T	O	L	E	A	K	I	S
			O	N	E	S	E	L	S	E		
B	A	S	T	E	Y	A	M	T	R	O	T	H
A	L	T	I	M	A	S	U	P		B	E	A
B	O	A	C	O	N	S	T	R	I	C	T	O
E	F	T		T	A	R		C	O	V	E	R
S	T	E	P	S		L	O	T		O	S	S
			O	C	A	S		O	A	T	H	
C	O	A	T	O	F	A	R	M	S		O	D
U	R	G	E	N	T		I	T	S	A	W	R
S	E	A	N	C	E		C	O	E	D		O
P	O	R	T	E	R		E	M	T	S		P

- 40 Zest in a cocktail
43 Dander-raising
46 Domestic-looking wildcat
48 Old cold-block bringers
50 Showy spring bloomers
52 Baseball’s Pee Wee
53 Affirm confidently
54 Give up
55 Sharp
56 TV tabloid pioneer Barrett
59 They’re hard in across answers and soft in down ones
61 ‘70s-’80s Dodger third baseman Ron
62 Women’s ___

Sudoku By The Mephram Group

11/15/10

Celebrate National Philanthropy Day!
10am-2pm - November 15th - Greene St.
Games, Prizes, and more!!!!



		1				7		8	
4					1				2
3				6	8				
		3				4			
			1		3		6		
				2				5	
					9	2			6
6					4				7
	7		3				1	2	

Level 1 2 3 4

How to Play
Complete the grid so each row, column AND 3-by-3 box (in bold borders) contains every digit 1 to 9.

Solution from 11/12/10

1	7	6	9	4	8	2	3	5
4	2	5	6	3	1	9	7	8
3	8	9	2	5	7	6	4	1
7	5	2	4	8	6	1	9	3
6	9	1	3	2	5	4	8	7
8	3	4	7	1	9	5	2	6
2	4	8	5	6	3	7	1	9
9	6	3	1	7	2	8	5	4
5	1	7	8	9	4	3	6	2

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Celebrate National Philanthropy Day!

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Carolina crowned C-USA champs

Penalty kick in second overtime gives USC men's soccer victory

Isabelle Khurshudyan
THE DAILY GAMECOCK

With everything the USC men's soccer team has been through, the ending to the Conference USA Tournament game was almost poetic.

First, the Gamecocks lost three valuable players to season-ending injuries, dashing chances at finishing at the top of the C-USA regular season standings, much less earning a berth in the NCAA Tournament.

Then, once the Gamecocks had remarkably put themselves in position to claim the second seed in the C-USA Tournament, USC suffered a loss at Kentucky, where senior Evan O'Dell suffered a concussion, to fall back to a four-seed in the tournament and be faced with an arduous seven-day, four-match journey if it wanted to win the tourney.

The Gamecocks persevered, beating UAB 2-1 in the quarterfinals. Then, in the semifinals, the Gamecocks pulled off an improbable victory against No. 1 seed Southern Miss, when Will Traynor's header in the 49th minute propelled USC past the national No. 5 Mustangs.

On Sunday, the Gamecocks faced a familiar foe in the C-USA Tournament Championship game, Tulsa. USC had upset Tulsa earlier this season, when the Golden Hurricane was ranked fifth in the nation.

"Our games with Tulsa have been very, very close through the years," coach Mark Berson said. "This year in the regular season we defeated Tulsa, at Tulsa, 1-0, and last year, they scored with seconds remaining in regulation to tie that game at South Carolina. The year before that we tied them at their place in the regular season, so the games have been very,



Photo Courtesy of USC Sports Information

The South Carolina men's soccer team poses with the Conference USA banner after winning the league tournament Sunday in Memphis.

very close. Tulsa has a good team. They circulate the ball very well, and they have dangerous people up front."

And while the Gamecocks have not won the conference since 2005, a Tulsa victory would've made it the fourth straight

tournament championship. Yet, just as history between the two teams shows, the game between the two was tightly contested, as South Carolina took its first C-USA Tournament Championship off a penalty kick following a handball in double

overtime.

USC goalkeeper Jimmy Maurer and Tulsa goalkeeper Ray Clark finished with four and seven saves, respectively.

CHAMPS • 10

USC's season ends at hands of Cavaliers

Women's soccer falls in second round of NCAA Tournament after being shut out 3-0 by No. 8 Virginia

Ryan Velasquez
STAFF WRITER

Over the course of the 2010 season, the road was a place of good fortune for South Carolina. Unfortunately for the Gamecocks, however, that good fortune didn't show up on Sunday.

After taking out No. 10 UNC Greensboro 2-1 in the first round of the NCAA Tournament, No. 20 Carolina (15-6-4) fell short of advancing to its second Sweet 16 with a 3-0 loss to No. 8 Virginia (15-4-2) Sunday afternoon.

"I knew it would be a battle today. They are a very good program," coach Shelley Smith said. "[Coach] Steve Swanson does a wonderful job with them. We knew it would take our best game, but unfortunately I don't think we played as well as we can."

Playing the Cavaliers for just the second time in program history, the Gamecocks nearly jumped out in front in the opening minutes when forward Kayla Grimsley managed to find a gap in the UVA defense before stumbling in the box and losing possession.

From there, however, Virginia took control, firing five shots over the next 20 minutes. In the 21st minute, the

Cavs finally struck. Off a UVA goal kick, forward Meghan Lenczyk sent a header behind the Carolina defense. Midfielder Sinead Farrelly ran on to it and managed to put it past senior goalkeeper Mollie Patton to give Virginia a 1-0 lead.

Carolina nearly responded a minute later, with a header from freshman midfielder Danielle Au off a free kick saved by keeper Chantel Jones. Junior Ellen Fahey also came close on another free kick a minute later, but it was saved as well, and the Gamecocks went into halftime still trailing by one.

As the match moved into the second half, the Virginia offense proved to be just as potent, and in the 61st minute, struck once again. After the Carolina defense attempted to clear the ball away, midfielder Lindsey Miller gained possession at the top of the box and fired it past Patton to make it 2-0.

The Cavaliers retained possession for much of the remainder of the match, holding the Gamecocks to just one shot in the second half, and in the 82nd minute, managed to add one more. After Carolina was whistled for a foul in the box, midfielder Julia Roberts converted the ensuing penalty kick to make it 3-0, eliminating the Gamecocks from the tournament and ending their season.

SOCCER • 10



Richard Pearce / THE DAILY GAMECOCK

Freshman Danielle Au tries to corral the ball earlier this season against Mississippi State.

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